

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-25 are rejected. Claims 1-3, 4-7, 9-11, 19, 23-25 are amended. Claims 10 and 14-17 are canceled. New claim 26 is added. No new matter is added in any amendment.

Amendments to the claims

Applicant has amended claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 11, 19, and 23-25 to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first & second paragraphs, 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as discussed *infra*. No new matter was added in any claim amendment. Claims 3, 10 and 14-18 are canceled.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 partially. Amended claim 1 is drawn to a hearth guard having first and second end sections and a center section adapted to adjust in length (pg. 16, ll. 5-9), each of which comprises a cushioning material, and means for connecting the end sections together with a distance between them adaptable to a length of the adjustable center section (pg. 20, ll. 1 to pg. 21, ll. 5; pg. 21, ll. 17 to pg. 22, ll. 6; Figs. 1, 2C). Claim 1 is amended further to recite that each of which has a front panel and a top panel (claim 2), a cloth cover (claim 3) disposed in covering relation to each of the front and top panels or to a combination of the front and top panels (pg. 13, ll. 19 to pg. 14, ll. 8) and means for fastening the cloth covers together or to a raised hearth (pg. 14, ll. 8-11; pg. 19, ll. 5-7).

Amended claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is limited to a side panel further comprising the end sections and a cloth covering (claim 3) disposed in covering relation as on the front and top panels of the end sections. Claim 2 is amended further to clarify claim language that the means to fasten the cloth covers (claim 1) further fastens the cloth cover disposed on the side panel to each of the cloth covers disposed on the front and top panels which forms a structure adapted to encase a raised hearth (pg. 18, ll. 21 to pg. 19, ll. 4; pg. 19, ll. 12-14; Fig. 1). Claim 3 is amended to depend from amended claim 1. Claim 3

also is amended to delete the phrase “covering means” and to recite that the cover is a cloth cover.

Claims 4-7 and 9 depend from amended claim 1. Claim 4 is amended to include the limitation of the front and top panels of the end section incorporated into claim 1 as forming a single piece structure having a 90 degree angle which is adapted to encase an end of a raised hearth (pg. 14, ll. 16-18). Claim 5 is amended to limit the adjustable center section as comprising a front and a top panel forming a single piece structure forming a single piece structure having a 90 degree angle which is adapted to encase a raised hearth (pg. 14, ll. 19-21; pg. 21, ll. 6-9; Fig. 2A). Claim 6 is amended to simplify and clarify claim language that the folded top and front panels of the adjustable center section are adapted to encase a center section of a raised hearth upon unfolding to form a structure having a 90 degree angle (pg. 15, ll. 1-11; pg. 21, ll. 10-16; Fig. 2B). Claim 7 is amended to simplify claim language and to clarify that the front and top panels of the adjustable center section are disposed relative to each at a 90 degree and adapted to encase a center section of a raised hearth (pg. 15, ll. 12-19). The phrase “molded from the cushioning material” is deleted from amended claims 4-7. Claim 9 is amended to clarify that the perforated adjustable center section forms a structure comprising perforated segments adapted to be removed to adjust length of the center section (pg. 5, ll. 9-10; pg. 22, ll. 9-13; Fig. 2A).

Claim 11 depends for amended claim 1 and is amended to limit the hearth further to comprising decorative fabric covers that are separately (pg. 17, ll. 5-6 and removably (pg. 3, ll. 12) disposed in covering relation on a surface comprising at least front surfaces of the end and center sections and on a surface comprising at least top surfaces of the end and center sections of the hearth guard. Claim 11 also is amended to recite means for fastening the fabric covers separately to a surface of the end sections (pg. 17, ll. 5 to pg. 18, ll. 7) and to fasten the fabric covers together along a front edge of the hearth guard (pg. 26, ll. 4-6). New claim 26 is added to depend from amended claim 11 and further limits the surface to include a surface of a side panel (amended claim 2) that is fastened to the front and end panels comprising the end sections (pg. 17, ll. 7-8).

Claim 19 depends from claim 18 which depends from claim 1. Claim 19 is amended to simplify claim language and to delete the method step of connecting the center

section to the end sections as the center section recited in amended claim 1 does not comprise means to connect to the end sections. Claims 20-21 and 23-25 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 19. Claims 20-21 are amended to delete the term “molded”. Claim 23 is amended to recite separately and removably covering a front and top surface of the hearth guard with decorative fabric covers, as with amended claim 11 *supra*. Claims 23-25 are amended to delete the phrase “length of” and to recite fabric “cover” throughout the claims.

Amendments to the specification

The specification was amended to clarify that a fabric cover covering the front surface of a hearth guard is distinct from a fabric cover covering the top surface of the hearth guard. The front and top fabric covers are identified by reference numbers **60a** and **60b**, respectively, and by **60a,b** when reference is to both. Applicant submits this is not new matter as the specification discloses that separate fabric covers are used and that they are not only individually fasten to the front or top of the hearth guard, but are fastened to each other along a front edge of the hearth guard (pg. 23, ll. 15 to pg. 26, ll. 7)

Amendments to the drawings

Figure 3A was amended to include the reference numeral **60a**. Figure 3B was amended to include the reference numeral **60b**. Figure 3C was amended to include both **60a** and **60b**. These replace reference numeral 60 for clarity and to correspond to the amendments to the description of Figures 3A-3C. These amendments do not constitute new matter for the reasons given *supra* for amendments to the specification.

Objection to the drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

a. A telescoping slider mechanism, Velcro, a strap, tie-string, bracket, sewing, zippers, snaps, and buttons, etc. are not shown. Applicant has canceled claims 14-17 reciting these claim elements.

b. A first removable fabric cover, a second removable fabric cover, the length shown to be sufficient to cover the end sections and the center sections (claim 10) and a second length of fabric (claim 20).

Applicant respectfully note that claims 10 and 20 in parent application U.S.S.N. 10/423,437 recite this subject matter. Claims 11 and 24 in the instant continuation-in-part application recite the claim elements described. Claim 11 is amended as described *supra* to recite decorative fabric covers that separately and removably cover at least the front and top surfaces of a hearth guard without reference to length. Claim 23 is amended, as discussed *supra*, to recite a covering step using decorative fabric covers. Claim 24 which depends from amended claim is amended to delete reference to “length” and to recite a first and second fabric cover to clarify that one fabric cover covers the front surface of the hearth guard and another fabric cover covers the top surface of the guard. Thus, Figures 3A-3B, as amended and described *supra*, depict how the front and top surfaces of a hearth guard are covered with separate, i.e., first and second, fabric covers **60a** and **60b**, respectively. Figure 3C depicts the fabric covers covering a hearth guard and fastened together along the front edge. Accordingly, in view of these claim amendments and arguments, Applicant requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Double patenting

Claims 1-5, 7-19 and 23-25 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-21 of copending application U.S.S.N. 10/423,437.

Applicants have canceled claims 10 and 14-17. As this is a provisional rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the provisional double patenting rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, 18-19, and 23-25 be held in abeyance until the provisionally rejected claims in the instant application and/or U.S.S.N. 10/423,437 are allowable.

The 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejection

Claims 10, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking a written description of a first removable fabric cover and a second removable

fabric cover wherein each of the adjustable decorative fabric covers have a length at least sufficient to cover the end sections and the center sections. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully note that claims 10, 20 and 21 in parent application U.S.S.N. 10/423,437 recite this subject matter. Claims 11 and 23-24 in the instant continuation-in-part application encompass the claim elements described. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 23-24 as discussed *supra*. Amended claims 11 and 23 recite decorative fabric covers, independently and removably, in covering relation to the front and top surfaces of the hearth guard or covering the front and top surfaces therewith, respectively. Amended claim 24 recites a first and a second of these fabric covers.

The specification describes how the assembled hearth guard may be covered with a decorative fabric and that the front and top surfaces of the guard are covered separately (pg. 17, ll. 5-7). The specification describes how a fabric cover covers the front surface (pg. 17, ll. 7-18). The specification also describes how “a second decorative fabric cover” covers the top surface of the hearth guard (pg. 17, ll. 19 to pg. 18, ll. 9). Additionally, the specification teaches that the fabric covers are interchangeable (pg. 3, ll. 12) and the means to fasten the decorative fabric covers may be, *inter alia*, Velcro, buttons, ties or snaps or other fastening means described in the specification (pg. 23, ll. 19-20, pg. 24, ll. 21; pg. 26, ll. 4-7). Such fastening means are all undoable. Thus, a sufficient written description is provided to enable the removable fabric covers as recited in amended claims 11 and 23-24. Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 11 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

a. In considering claims 2-17, the Examiner states that the terms “optionally, a side panel” and “optionally said fastening means” are confusing.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of the end sections each comprising top and front panels. Claim 2 is amended to recite a further limitation of a side panel in each end section and a cloth cover disposed thereon which is fastened to the cloth covers disposed on the top and front panels of claim 1. The term “optionally” therefore is deleted.

b. The Examiner states the scope of the invention in claims 2-20 is unclear in that the preamble defines the invention as a “hearth guard” to cover a raised hearth, yet reference is made within the body of the claim to “the raised hearth”.

Applicant has canceled claims 3, 10 and 14-17. Applicant has amended claims 2 and 4-7 to recite “a raised hearth”. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and further limits the assembling step of the hearth guard. The remaining recitations of “the raised hearth” or “said raised hearth” in claim 19 and claim 20 which depends from claim 19 (as do dependent claims 21-22 and 24-25 which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 19) are proper because claim 18 is drawn to a method of protectively covering a raised hearth.

c. In regard to claim 2, the Examiner states there is no proper antecedent basis for “said covered front panel” and “covered top and front panels”.

Applicant has deleted these phrases from claim 2. Amended claim 2 recites a cloth cover disposed in covering relation to the side panel, as discussed.

d. In regard to claims 1-17, the Examiner states the word “means” is preceded by the word(s) “connecting”, “fastening” and “covering” in an attempt to use a “means” clause to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function. However, no function is specified by the words preceding “means”.

Applicant has canceled claims 10 and 14-17. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite “means for adjustably connecting said first and second end sections to said center section” and to delete the phrase “connecting means”. Applicant also has amended claim 1 to recite means for fastening the cloth covers together or to a raised hearth and to delete “fastening means”. Applicant has amended claims 2-3 to delete the phrases “covering means” and “fastening means” where appropriate. Amended claim 2 recites a

cover on the side panel fastened to the covers on the top/front panels of the end sections, as discussed *supra*. Claim 3 recites a cloth cover.

Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-13 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by **Bremner** (U.S. Patent No. 1,713,072). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner states that **Bremner** shows and discloses an adjustable cushion guard comprising a first end section (10), a second end section (10) and an adjustable center section (11,12) each of a cushioning material, cloth covering means (29) for each of said panels, a telescoping slider bracket mechanism connecting means to connect the sections (20-27, 37-38), and fastening means (46-47).

Bremner teaches a table pad having a plurality of separable pads of different shapes that are joined by a plurality of quick detachable connectors (pg. 1, ll. 7-14). The table pads are adapted to cover a table top of various shapes (pg. 1, ll. 42-45) such that if leaves are added to the table, additional smaller sections are connected to the existing sections (pg. 1, ll. 42-55). The sections are connected by flat releasable male-female (37,38) connectors riveted (46,47) to the underside of the sections at the edges (pg. 1, ll. 90 to pg. 2, ll. 21). The sections are made each of a layer of cotton or wool felt covered on one side by closely woven fabric and on the other by a rubber coated fabric (pg. 2, ll. 22-30) which are held in place by rows of diagonal oblique stitches through the three layers across the section (pg. 2, ll. 42-51; Fig. 1).

Applicant has canceled claims 10 and 14-16. As discussed *supra*, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 2-3, as discussed *supra* and canceled claim 3. Amended claim 1 now recites that the end sections each comprise a top panel and a front panel and a cloth cover disposed in covering relation to each of the top and front panels. **Bremner** teaches sections comprising a single piece. Amended claim 1 also is amended to recite the end sections each comprise a means for

fastening the cloth covers covering the front and top panels in an end section to each other and/or to a raised hearth. **Bremner** teaches sewing the cloth cover to the section it covers, but not fastening the cloth covers of end sections to each other nor fastening the cloth covers to the table top. **Bremner** specifically teaches using a rubber coating on a cloth to reduce slipping. Amended claim 1 is amended further to recite means to adjustably connect the first end section to the second end section with a distance therebetween adjustable to a length of the adjustable center section. **Bremner** teaches either using connectors to connect end sections in direct apposition or to connect each end section directly to one or more center sections.

Furthermore, claims 4, 7, 9 and 13 depend from amended claim 1. Claim 4 is amended to recite that the top and front panels of the end sections each are a single piece structure forming a 90 degree angle adapted to encase a raised hearth. Claim 7 is amended to recite that the adjustable center section comprises a top and front panel positionable relative to each other to form a 90 degree angle and adapted to encase a center section of a raised hearth. **Bremner** does not teach an end section or a center section that each comprises a top panel connected in any way to a front panel.

Claim 9 is amended to recite that the adjustable center section is perforated at intervals along the width of the center section to form removable perforated segments to adjust length. **Bremner** does not teach center sections that are adjustable in length by removing perforated segments. In fact **Bremner** teaches that a center section comprises male or female connector components riveted to both edges of the section to connect to an end section, which also comprise these connectors, another center section or both. Thus, segments cannot be removed from the center section and retain the connectors which are the novel feature of **Bremner**. Claim 13 limits the cushioning material to foam. **Bremner** teaches that the cushioning material is cotton batting or felt.

Absent these teachings, **Bremner** cannot anticipate amended claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 13. Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections

Claims 1-9 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **McCall** (U.S. Patent No. 5,639,072) in view of **Gendre** (FR2691435) and **Stecker** (U.S. Patent No. 4,867,135). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that **McCall** discloses an adjustable cushioned guard having a first end section and a second end section (Fig. 7) each of a cushioning material (col. 4, ll. 34-42 & ll. 63-65), an adjustable center section (col. 8, ll. 37-34) and a cloth covering means (16, 60) for each panel. The Examiner also states that **McCall** discloses that various lengths and/or a plurality of lengths of the cushion guard can be used to protect the table edge (col. 8, ll. 37-34). The Examiner further states that **McCall** does not teach a means to connect the sections or a means to fasten the sections.

The Examiner states that **Gendre** teaches from the same edge and/or corner cover field of endeavor as **McCall** and provides first and second end sections (1) of a cover guard with connecting means (4) for securing the guard to a support surface by drawing the ends together. The Examiner also states that **Stecker**, in the same field of endeavor as **McCall**, teaches fastening means (30, 38a) between individually formed covered foam panel sections for attaching the panel pieces together to form the shape of a fireplace edge and corner guard.

Thus, the Examiner contends that for the purpose of securing the guard to a surface, e.g., a fireplace mantle (Examiner's word), by drawing the ends together, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify **McCall** to include connecting means, in view of **Gendre** or **Stecker**. The Examiner also contends that it is well known to provide materials with perforations to in separating portions for sizing (see U.S. Patent Nos. 4,403,304, element P and 5,603,140, element 12) and would be obvious to provide the foam portions of **McCall** with sizing perforations. Additionally, the Examiner states that it is well known to coat fabric with a fire-resistant layer and such a step would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

McCall teaches a linear, circular or L-shaped bumper that can be releasably attached to parametric edges or, for L-shaped bumpers, corners of tables (col. 3, ll. 66 to col. 2, ll. 1). The bumper is a modified cylinder of solid cushion material, circumscribed by

an appropriately seamed outer cover (col. 2, ll. 2-3). The cylindrical bumper has a central axis of formation about which are an included angle of 90 degrees and a circumferential angle of 270 degrees (col. 2, ll. 8-16; col. 3, ll. 52-66; Fig. 1). The bumpers are attached relative to the table edge by a Velcro hook and loop sections, one attached to an inner face of the bumper to hook with the other section adhered to the table surface (col. 4, ll. 13-27). The bumper must have a compressional deflection D of the bumper less than the radius R of the to protect against injury to a child (col. 4, ll. 28-41).

Gendre teaches a corner protector for a frame or panel that comprises two plates with turned-over edges held against a corner by adjustable elastic ties. The elastic ties are bands with their ends passing through holes in the plates which are held in place by bars inserted through the loops on the external faces of the plates (Abstract).

Stecker teaches a fireplace protection pad having a top piece, a front piece a left side piece and a right side piece which are releasably attachable at adjacent edges (Abstract; col. 1, ll. 37-40). The pieces are attached by Velcro, snaps or zippers (col. 1, ll. 41-44). Alternatively, the protection pad may comprise a single top and front piece and two side pieces using fewer attachment devices (col. 3, ll. 20-33) or the top, front and side pieces may comprise a single piece which require no attachment devices (col. 3, ll. 34-41).

To establish obviousness, the combination of the prior art must fairly teach or suggest all of the claim elements. **McCall** does not teach nor suggest the claim elements of a bumper comprising a front and a top panel. **McCall** specifically teaches a modified cylindrical bumper which provides a uniform outer radius of curvature around the table edge to provide uniform compressional protection against injury to any part of the anatomy from falling against the bumper. Uniformity is dependent on at least the radius of the bumper. **McCall** neither teaches nor suggests a bumper which itself has a contactable edge formed by front and top panels. One of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to modify the bumpers of **McCall** in this manner because **McCall** teaches away from such modification.

McCall does not teach or suggest a bumper without a cover appropriately seamed on the cushioning material, nor teaches or suggests that bumper covers are adapted to be fastened to each other and not to the cushioning material. With the exception of

length and shape, all bumpers used to protect a table edge are identical and interchangeable. Applicant teaches a hearth guard with end sections of front and top panels having a cover and a center section that does not have a cover, but that is adapted to be adjusted for length. Additionally, **McCall** does not teach that a bumper *per se* may be adjusted for length, but rather that the lengths of individual bumpers and the numbers used may vary to provide parameter table protection (col. 8, ll. 37-44).

Combining **Gendre** or **Stecker** with **McCall** does not remedy these deficiencies. At best, **Gendre** suggests a means to connect the L-shaped bumpers at adjacent corners to hold them in a tensioned manner to the table corner or to connect each bumper to each adjacent bumper around the perimeter or circumferential edge of a table in a tensioned manner. Neither of these is Applicant's invention. Applicant's claim 1, is not drawn to end sections forming a structure adapted to encase a corner of a raised hearth, but rather to end sections connected with a distance therebetween across a front and top surface of a raised hearth which distance accommodates the center section. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to use the elastic ties to connect linear bumpers in a tensioning manner along a table edge without connecting the adjacent edges of the linear bumpers at a corner because otherwise there is no tensioning force at the corner edge to hold the bumper, at least at that end, securely.

At best, **Stecker** may motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to use a means, such as Velcro or snaps, to fasten the end of one bumper to the end of the adjacent bumper. **Stecker** teaches that the engagable component and the engaged component of the fasteners are attached to the corresponding edges of the pad pieces. Modifying the bumper of **McCall** with the fasteners of **Stecker** precludes modification of a bumper to include perforated segments for the reasons discussed in Bremner, *supra*, i.e., the bumper could be adjusted by removing one or more perforated segments without losing part of the fastener.

The means to fasten the cloth covers disposed on the front and top panels and/or to fasten the cloth covers to a raised hearth are not interchangeable with the means to connect the end sections. Fastening requires direct contact between the fastened elements whereas connecting requires attachment over a linear distance. Applicant

submits that the teachings in **Gendre** are most closely analogous to a means of connecting and that the teachings in **Stecker** are most closely analogous to a means of fastening, as compared to the claim elements recited in amended claim 1.

At a minimum the combination of **McCall** with **Gendre** or **Stecker** or even the combination of **McCall** with **Gendre** and **Stecker** do not teach or suggest a combination of bumpers having a first and second end section each comprising a front and top panel with means to connect the end sections at a distance and a center section adapted to adjust in length. Absent a teaching of these claim elements, the combination of **McCall** with **Gendre** or **Stecker** can not render amended independent claim 1 obvious. Furthermore, claims 2-9, 11-13 and new claim 26 depend directly from amended independent claim 1 and further limit the end sections (claims 2-4), limit the components and adjustability of the center section (claims 5-9), limit the hearth guard to comprising decorative fabrics covering the front and top surfaces thereof (claims 11 and 26) or to comprising a fire-resistant coating (claim 12), and limit the cushioning material (claim 13). If the combination of **McCall** in view of **Gendre** or **Stecker** cannot render amended independent claim 1 obvious, then neither can the combination render dependent claims 2, 4-9 and 11-13 obvious.

Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **McCall** (U.S. Patent No. 5,639,072) in view of **Gendre** (FR2691435) and **Stecker** (U.S. Patent No. 4,867,135), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Fisher et al.** (U.S. Patent No. 4,514,871). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that **Fisher et al.** teaches, from the same edge and/or corner cover field of endeavor as **McCall**, covering padded edge guard sections with a first cover (25), a second cover (49) and fastening means (53,67) in a tensioned manner to secure cushioned sections of a corner guard relative to each other. The Examiner contends it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide the guard

of **McCall** with a first and second cover and fastening means assembled in a tensioned manner as taught in **Fisher et al.**

Fisher et al. teaches a universal, convertible, padded end cap for a water bed railing. (Abstract). The end cap comprises an inner rigid structure adapted to enclose and rest upon the upper ends of a rail and, optionally, fastening or clamping means. The outer surface has a padded material which is covered with a fabric (col. 3, ll. 1-15).

Applicant has canceled claim 10, therefore the rejection over the combination of **McCall** in view of **Gendre** or **Stecker** and in further view of **Fisher et al.** is moot. Additionally, claims 19-25 depend directly or indirectly from claim 18 which is not rejected as unpatentable over the combination of **McCall** with **Gendre** or **Stecker** and **Fisher et al.** Thus, if claim 18 is nonobvious over this combination so to are claims 19-25 nonobvious. Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments and arguments presented, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2004. If any issues remain, please telephone the undersigned attorney of record. Applicants enclose a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time. Please credit the credit card identified on the enclosed Form PTO-2038 for the \$60 fee. Please debit any insufficiency in the fees from Deposit Account No. 07-1185 upon which the undersigned is allowed to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 3A, 3B and 3C with the Replacement Figures 3A, 3B, 3C enclosed herewith. No new matter is added in these drawings.